place the administration of Sirkar Devaswoms under a separate Devaswom Department, and simultaneously with the creation of this department the age-long grievance of the non-eligibility of certain classes of the people of this country for admission into the land revenue service of the State will disappear. The orders of the Government on this vexed question will issue shortly, and I may tell you that those orders, besides satisfying the just aspirations of large sections of His Highness' subjects and securing increased efficiency in the management and maintenance of Sirkar Devaswoms, would also convey the immeasurable benefit of an assurance to the numerous holders of Sirkar Devaswomvaka properties that their holdings will, for all time to come, be accorded equal treatment with pandaravaka lands in the matter of incidence of tenure.

33. While Government are gratified at the indications of an effort at *rapprochement* on the part of the various communities and signs of the healing up of their differences, they are pained to see that the disruptive forces that are causing so much havoc elsewhere have not left Travancore altogether untouched and that they have supplied handy material to those engaged in promoting public excitement. The effects of their unhealthy influence are reflected in the unrest among the immature and the more impulsive sections of the population. It would be well to remember that mere shibboleths can never make a solid basis for enduring political progress. Those who are indulging in the dissemination of these deleterious propaganda are perhaps unconsciously, but none the less undoubtedly, doing a distinct disservice to their country, and it is my earnest prayer that the fair name of Travancore for political sobriety and respect for constituted authority should not be tarnished by any thoughtless encouragement of such propaganda.

34. Depressed and Backward Classes.—The amelioration of the lot of the depressed and the backward classes and their gradual elevation in the social scale have continued to engage the attention of the Government. The safest and most effective means of advancing these communities is education, and it is a source of pleasure to the Government to note that the members of these classes have been making steady headway in this direction. The number of Pulaya pupils attending schools rose by 11·5 per cent., of Parayas by 16·6 per cent., and of Mahomedans by 12·8 per cent. during 1096. Government are gratified to observe that, out of 356 Pulaya pupils that sat for the annual examination in class IV of primary schools, 174 passed, and that 136 of the latter are prosecuting their higher studies. The scheme of scholarships already referred to would, when brought into force, afford a further stimulus to the expansion of education among the members of these classes. Care has been taken to represent as far as possible the interests of these communities on the several municipal councils and panchayat courts. The Co-operative Department has been, for some time past, devoting its special attention to the spread of the co-operative movement among the depressed classes, and Government are glad to note that 44 out of the 265 primary societies in the country are working for the uplift of these classes. The social, educational and material advancement of the fisher folk along the coast is engaging the attention of the Department of Fisheries, and a provision similar to the one already made in favour of the depressed classes has been recently inserted in the revised Puduval Rules with a view to create facilities for the members of this community, who are as a rule homeless, for acquiring small homesteads in the vicinity of the places where they have to eke out their living.

35. Conclusion.—I think that I am fairly entitled to claim that the spirit that actuates the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja is one of unstinted and devoted service to the people of this country. It is needless for me to add that the success of that service must in a very large measure depend on the use to which you will be putting the enlarged opportunities now afforded to you and the extent to which you will be evincing your willingness to co-operate with the Government in all that concerns your welfare and progress."

The Assembly adjourned at 1-5 P. M. to meet again the next day.

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